

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: BQG, WB, GW, GE
SUBJECT: SENAT DRAWS BALANCE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF QA FOR PAST YEAR

SUMMARY: THE SENAT HAS PUBLISHED ITS EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMEN-
TATION OF THE QA FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 1, 1977 TO MAY 31,
1978. NOT SURPRISINGLY THE SENAT'S EVALUATION IS VERY POSITIVE
WHILE THE CDU OPPOSITION TAKES A RATHER DIFFERENT TACK.
END SUMMARY.

1. THE SENAT REPORTED JUNE 27 THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS AFFECTING BERLIN WHICH ARE AN
OUTGROWTH OF THE QA HAD FUNCTIONED BASICALLY VERY WELL
OVER THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS AND WERE ACCEPTED AS PART
OF THE DAILY LIFE OF THE BERLINERS. THE SENAT CONTINUED
THAT NO LASTING DISTURBANCES HAD OCCURRED ALTHOUGH
DIFFICULTIES WERE EXPERIENCED OVER THE FORMULATION OF BERLIN'S
TIES TO THE FRG, AND BERLIN'S REPRESENTATION BY THE FRG IN
FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE SENAT REPORTED BERLIN'S TIES TO THE FRG
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HAD BEEN MAINTAINED AND WERE EXPANDED "DESPITE REPEATED UNJUSTIFIED
SOVIET CRITICISM."

2. THE SENAT REPORT COVERED THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN DEATIL:
A. TRAVEL AND VISITS TO EAST BERLIN AND THE GDR.
DURING THE PERIOD OF THE REPORT 3.23 MILLION VISITORS TO
EAST BERLIN AND THE GDR HAD BEEN RECORDED. IN GENERAL NO

DIFFICULTIES HAD BEEN EXPERIENCED BY VISITORS ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF PERSONS USING THEIR PRIVATE CARS TO TRAVEL TO THE EAST HAD DECREASED BY 15 PERCENT BECAUSE THE GDR CONTINUES TO LEVY TOLLS FROM WEST BERLINERS FOR USING EAST BERLIN AND GDR ROADS. IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS 28 WEST BERLINERS WERE ARRESTED BY GDR OFFICIALS, BRINGING THE TOTAL ARRESTED SINCE 1971 WHEN THE QA WENT INTO EFFECT TO 185. FORTY-ONE WEST BERLINERS ARE STILL HELD IN EAST BERLIN OR GDR JAILS. DURING THE PERIOD COVERED BY THE REPORT THE SENAT HANDLED 926 COMPLAINTS WITH REGARD TO VISITORS TRAFFIC, 619 OF WHICH RELATED TO GDR REFUSAL TO ISSUE ENTRANCE VISAS. THE SENAT CONTENDS THE REJECTIONS WERE UNJUSTIFIED IN THE MAJORITY OF THE CASES, IT WILL CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO SETTLE THIS PROBLEM.

B. TRANSIT TRAFFIC

TRANSIT TRAFFIC DEVELOPMENT WAS "ALL IN ALL SATISFACTORY." THE SENAT STATED THAT GDR AUTHORITIES MADE EFFORTS TO HANDLE TRANSITS QUICKLY AND SMOOTHLY. COMPARED TO THE PERIOD ENDING MAY 31, 1977, TRANSIT TRAFFIC BY ROAD INCREASED BY 6 PERCENT AND THAT BY RAIL BY 32 PERCENT. OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS, 141 PERSONS WERE ARRESTED IN TRANSIT, 89 BECAUSE OF AIDING AND ABETTING IN ESCAPE ATTEMPTS.

C. COMMUNICATIONS

EVERY DAY APPROXIMATELY 20,000 TELEPHONE CALLS ARE MADE TO EAST BERLIN AND ANOTHER 3,000 TO THE GDR. THIS STATISTIC UNCLASSIFIED

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DEMONSTRATES THAT THIS COMMUNICATIONS LINK FUNCTIONS WELL. SOME DIFFICULTIES ARE EXPERIENCED ON THE OTHER HAND WITH THE POSTAL SERVICE. ACCORDING TO THE SENAT MANY EAST BERLIN AND GDR AUTHORITIES AS WELL AS PRIVATE CITIZENS REFUSE TO USE THE "D" ZIP CODE DESIGNATION (FOR THE FRG AND WEST GERLIN) WHEN ADDRESSING MAIL TO WEST BERLIN. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY BROACHED THE SUBJECT WITH GDR AUTHORITIES.

D. INCREASED SOVIET PATROLS IN WEST BERLIN

REFERRING TO THE SOVIET PATROLS IN WEST BERLIN, THE NUMBER OF WHICH HAS INCREASED SINCE JULY 1977, THE SENAT SAID THAT THE THREE WESTERN PROTECTIVE POWERS REGARDED THIS AS A SURE SIGN THAT THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FOUR POWERS CONTINUED TO APPLY TO GREATER BERLIN, BASED ON WHICH THE EASTERN SECTOR OF BERLIN WAS LIKEWISE REGULARLY PATROLLED BY MEMBERS OF THE WESTERN ALLIES. INFRINGEMENTS BY THE SOVIETS IN WEST BERLIN HAD BEEN STOPPED ACCORDING TO THE SENAT BY "IMMEDIATE ACTION AND OTHER MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTIVE POWERS."

3. BERLIN CDU CAUCUS LEADER HEINRICH LUMMER IMMEDIATELY CHARGED THAT THE LATEST SENAT REPORT MERELY CONFIRMS THAT NEITHER STRICT OBSERVANCE NOR FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE QA

CAN BE CONSIDERED A FACT. ACCORDING TO LUMMER, SOVIET POLITICS WHICH ARE AIMED AT RESTRICTING THE APPLICATION OF THE QA, HAVE SUCCEEDED BECAUSE THE FRG AND THE BERLIN SENAT REFRAIN FROM INSISTING ON A LEGALLY PERMISSIBLE, FULL IMPLENTATION OF THE QA WHENEVER THIS WOULD PLACE A STRAIN ON THE RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. LUMMER ADDED THAT IT COULD BE SAID IN THIS CONTEXT THAT DEVELOPMENTS HAVE BEEN STAGNANT FOR THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS, OR EVEN SUFFERED A REVERSE. HE SAID HIS PARTY WOULD DISCUSS THE SENAT REPORT IN DETAIL BEFORE THE BERLIN HOUSE.
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